

GROWN UP SHOTS

Immunize for Life Adult Immunization Program

October 2008 | Volume 1, Issue 5



Adult Influenza Vaccination Program Update

Vaccine Deliveries

By now, you should have all received at least a partial order of flu vaccine. If not, you may call or e-mail The Wellness Company. Their e-mail is vaccist@thewellcomp.com. The phone number is 490-0942. As always, please be sure to include your AV enrollment number in your correspondence.

Eligibility Questions:

I have had many calls from patients and providers about giving out-of-state patients flu vaccine. As per the eligibility flow chart you have all received, a person who does not live or work in Rhode Island is not eligible to receive a dose of the state-supplied flu **vaccine free of charge**. That does not mean you cannot bill their health insurance for the vaccine. The Department of Health would need to be reimbursed the cost of the vaccine used on ineligible patients at \$10.99 a dose. Your practice will recoup this amount by billing the ineligible patient's out-of-state health insurance plan. If you have many out-of-state patients, you may want to consider purchasing a separate supply of vaccine for them so you won't have to worry about keeping track of the number of doses you used on ineligible patients in order to reimburse the Department of Health.

Medicaid Billing

Use the G0008 code for the administration of flu vaccine. The Medicaid representative I spoke with wanted to remind vaccine providers that if a flu vaccination is given during an office visit, you cannot bill Medicaid for the administration of the flu vaccine and the visit. If a patient comes in for just a flu vaccination, it is then acceptable to bill the administration fee. For more information, go to <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/dhs/heacre/provsvcs/prvupdts/pu183.htm>

Vaccine Inventories

The first vaccine inventories and temperature will be due at the end of the month. If you did not receive this season's revised forms, you can download them at <http://www.health.ri.gov/immunization/immunizeforlife-forms.php> or call me and I will e-mail them to you.

CDC-Recommended Protocols for Influenza Vaccine Administration

As some of you may be administering influenza vaccine for the first time, I wanted to provide you with some influenza immunization guidelines to ensure you are adhering to best practices.

1. Flu vaccine is given intramuscularly in the deltoid muscle. For any adult over 130 lbs, you will need at least a 1-inch needle. For most adults, using a needle smaller than 1-inch will result in the vaccine being given subcutaneously. In addition to the injection site becoming red and painful, the optimal antibody response will not be achieved.
2. Pre-drawing is not recommended by CDC. If your practice does pre-draw, only a few doses should be drawn, and they must be kept under refrigeration until their use.
3. By law, a patient must receive a vaccine information statement (VIS) before receiving any vaccine (including flu). You can download flu VIS's and more at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>

Contents

IFL Program Update	1
Flu Vaccination Protocol	1
Joke of the Month	1

Immunize for Life

3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908

VIRGINIA PAINE, RN, MPH
Adult Immunization Program
Manager
401.222.7681
Virginia.paine@health.ri.gov
www.health.ri.gov

Funny Medical Charting Errors

Taken from:

<http://www.nursinghumor.com/charts>

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.

Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.

The patient refused autopsy.

Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.

I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.

The lab test indicated abnormal liver function.

The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.

Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Blank, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.

Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.

Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.